

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of November 2, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-27 are requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 16-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Schneider (US 5,612,029).

Claims 7, 11-15, and 24 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

The Claims Are Now in Condition For Allowance

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of now-cancelled claim 8. First, claim 1 calls for generally columnar projection images to be produced. By contrast, Schneider images different planes in an imaging volume (column 5, lines 33-35). These planar images are used to derive a shim coil calibration matrix whose rows represent each shim coil and whose columns represent a polynomial term coefficient for that shim coil (column 7, lines 63-67). Thus, the “columns” referenced in Schneider refer to matrix columns.

Second, claim 1 now requires a black blood preparation to be performed to suppress magnetic resonance from moving blood. While Schneider removes fat signals (column 4, lines 52-65), she does not suppress the signal from moving blood, nor does she provide any motivation to do so. Accordingly, it is submitted that **claim 1 and claims 2-6, 9, and 16 dependent therefrom** are not anticipated by Schneider.

Claim 7, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that **claim 7 and claims 10, 14, and 15 dependent therefrom** distinguish patentably and unobviously over the references of record.

Claim 11, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that **claim 11 and claims 12, 13, 25, and 26 dependent therefrom** are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 21 calls for performing a black blood preparation and performing a fat saturation preparation. By contrast, Schneider only performs a fat preparation.

Schneider fails to recognize or suggest any reason to add a black blood preparation to the described sequence. Accordingly, it is submitted that **claim 21 and claims 18-20, 22, and 23 dependent therefrom** distinguish patentably and unobviously over the references of record.

Claim 24, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form, incorporating subject matter from allowable claim 14. Accordingly, it is submitted that **claim 24 and claim 27 dependent therefrom** are now in condition for allowance.

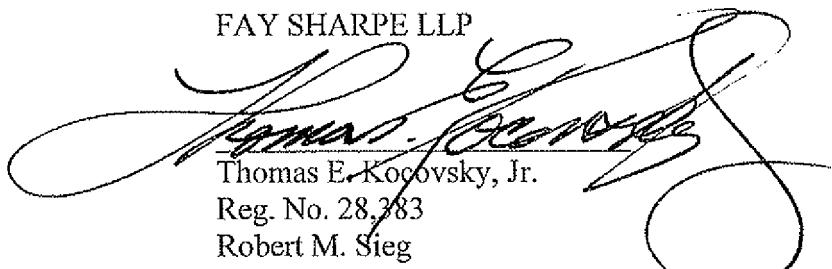
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-27 distinguish patentably over the references of record and meet all statutory requirements. An early allowance of all claims is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, she is requested to telephone Thomas Kocovsky at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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